Shelling out of additional surcharge on ships calling at Mumbai Port

4051. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ships calling at Mumbai Port are being forced to shell out an additional surcharge to secure a berth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Mumbai Port Trust is empowered to collect this additional surcharge/tariff without any approval; and

(d) if not, how they are forcing the illegal payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Surcharge is levied by the Stevedores and not by Mumbai Port Trust.

Withdrawal of import duty on ships

4052. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached for withdrawal of five percent duty on import of ships; and

(b) if so, the action proposed with a view to promoting growth of the Indian fleet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has requested Ministry of Finance for the withdrawal of customs duty on import of ships proposed in the Finance Bill of 2001-02 as shipping industry is operating in a global market and facing competition from foreign shipowners, who have the benefit of such exemptions. The net result of this new levy will be that Indian shipowners may not go for fresh acquisition under

Merchant Shipping Act which in turn would lead to decline in the Indian Tonnage from the present level of about 7 million Gross Tonnage.

Utilization of funds allocated for welfare of SCs/STs

4053. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated to different States for the welfare of SCs/STs under the Centrally sponsored schemes during the last two years have not been properly utilised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Instances of misuse of scholarship funds during the last two years, as reported by concerned State Governments, are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Details of Cases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	One instance was reported in respect of S.V.P. College, involving an amount of Rs. 1,00,630/-.
2.	Uttar Pradesh	As per the report for the year 1999-2000 eight headmasters were suspended, recognition of thirty-seven schools cancelled and that FIRs were lodged. Scholarship amount has also been recovered from sixty-two schools. In the year 2000-2001 from April to June 2000, two district level officers and thirteen officials have been suspended. FIRs have been lodged in 32 cases.